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How Arlington Won the  
Flag on the Town House

Bartlett, Edward H. H.



THE STEDMAN PRESS.

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At the urgent request of many of my friends for copies of the address of Mr. Edwin F. Deering, in support of my effort to secure a vote of the town to erect a flag and pole on the town hall and keep the emblem of liberty floating at appropriate occasions I have published the whole history of my efforts, taking justifiable pride in my own work as well as acknowledging the kind services of all those patriotic individuals who stood by me and generously supported the measure.

This work is the outward expression of my love for my adopted country, being as many already know, English by birth, but loyal American to the core and faithful in my allegiance to America, Massachusetts and Arlington.

Yours for American Liberty,

EDWARD H. H. BARTLETT.

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## The Voice of the Press.

Mr. Edward H. H. Bartlett has the right to take a commendable pride in the stars and stripes as they float from the Town hall, for Mr. Bartlett is he who put "Old Glory" there. Mr. Bartlett, though born across the water, is just such an American as President Roosevelt likes. He is every inch a Democrat. He believes in the people. His first vote was cast for the late Benjamin F. Butler for governor of Massachusetts. Mr. Bartlett has been a resident of Arlington for eighteen years, and he has served the town well in distributing town reports and notices for public entertainments and so on, to the end of the list.—*Arlington Expositor*.



K. K. May 20/10

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W. A. W. Webber.  
Wilson Palmer.  
Frank P. Dyer.  
Alfred H. Knowles.  
Chas. W. Grossmith.  
Chas. F. Parker.  
Edgar D. Parker.  
Chas. H. Stevens.  
H. A. Perham.  
Frank P. Winn.  
M. McLeod.  
S. A. Fowle, Jr.  
Chas. T. Hartwell.  
Geo. S. Bartlett.  
Geo. H. Lowe.  
H. D. Hawkins.  
Wm. E. Freeman.  
A. Foster Brooks.  
Frank J. Rowe.  
Henry F. Derby.  
Geo. C. Tewksbury.  
H. T. Lawton.  
John F. Sweeney.  
N. J. Hardy.  
J. W. Bailey.  
A. D. Hoitt.  
F. A. Johnson.  
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J. H. Crosby.  
N. E. Whittier.  
Ivers L. Wetherbee.  
E. G. Wood.  
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Timothy O'Brien.  
Denis J. McCarthy.  
Chas. F. Scannell.  
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John R. Hendricks.  
Philip A. Hendricks.  
A. W. Trow.  
Mathew Rowe.  
Benj. H. Pierce.  
John Lyons.  
Thomas Hughes.  
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E. F. Deering.  
J. H. McLelland.  
W. W. Rawson.  
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W. H. Hunton.  
Frank Y. Wellington.  
George E. Ahern. ✱  
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Chester G. Peck.

Wm. Whitmore.  
M. E. Callahan.  
Frederick J. Grossmith.  
George B. C. Rugg.  
John I. Peatfield.  
F. E. Fowle.  
Freeman N. Young.  
F. E. Thompson.

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This article was incorporated in the warrant for the annual town meeting, March 6, 1905. The proceedings at the town meeting were fully reported in the *Arlington Expositor*, from which the following extracts are here republished.

### Installation of Flag on Town Hall.

The matter of raising the American flag on the Town Hall building was introduced by Edward H. H. Bartlett, who appeared in its favor with a small flag in one hand and a list of the names of citizens favorable to the raising of the flag in the other. The amount asked for this purpose was \$100, and the appropriation of this money was opposed by the committee of twenty-one.

E. F. Deering, a natural humorist, who says some very good things, in a manner and style that are all his own, and which are sure to create a number of laughs during delivery, favored the raising of the flag. At the close of his remarks he received generous applause. In substance Mr. Deering said :

“Mr. Moderator, fellow citizens, ladies and gentlemen,— I stand here to-night in the capacity of a sincere citizen and tax-payer of Arlington. A low tax rate pleases me because I am human but God forbid that I should so far forget my manhood and my patriotism as to vote against the raising of the

American flag on top of our Town Hall in order that we might have a lower tax rate. I am not that kind of an American citizen. They don't raise that kind of men among the old Green Mountains of Vermont, the state that produces such men as Ethan Allen, Capt. Clark and Admiral George Dewey, who, with one shot from his flagship Olympia, on May 1, 1898, changed the whole map of the United States and thereby caused the raising of the American flag over a down-trodden people, who, in time, under the protection of that flag, will be enjoying the same blessings of a free country that you and I are enjoying to-night. We are all American citizens. No man is to be blamed for his birthplace. As a rule he has to be born pretty near the locality where his mother happens to be at that time. My parents left the old country for America in a small sailing vessel and were over six weeks before they tied up to Long Wharf. They were a long time in getting here, but they got here just the same. I came over with them, but I don't remember anything about the trip. But when I did come into the world I thank God I was able to breathe the fresh air of a free country and was born under the protection of the American flag. That flag stands for good credit. Anything that has the backing of that flag is worth one hundred cents on the dollar in any spot or place on God's footstool where the flag can be found. That flag, with that grand young man, ~~democratic~~ Theodore Roosevelt, as commander-in-chief, means a 'square deal' to every man wherever the stars and stripes are flying. Why isn't that a pretty good emblem to have floating from the roof of this Town Hall?

Now what do you suppose these would be ex-citizens of Arlington, whose busts adorn the walls of this hall of fame—men who have made good history, and men who by their lives and actions did so much for this country and her institutions—what would they say to the committee of twenty-one, who for

the insignificant sum of \$100 would not recommend the raising of the American flag on the building whose roof to-night shelters the sweet memory of these honored men—what would they say to this committee of twenty-one, if they had the power of speech to-night? I know what they'd say—'Shame on you.'

We have just passed through one of the most interesting elections this town has had for years, and the pure in hearts won out. This town stands to-night for all that is pure, clean and wholesome. We want pure air the coming year and if the Board of Health do their duty, we shall have it. We want pure water and we want a pure tax. That means an honest tax and if the Board of Assessors do their duty, we will have that. You have voted for a good, clean, safe town and if the board of Selectmen do their duty we will have that and it won't be necessary to spend money for outside help to accomplish it.

Now with all this purity in our midst what better emblem of purity could we have flying from this building than the American flag? There isn't a doubt in my mind but if the Angel Gabriel should blow his trumpet any time during the next year 'Kingdom Come' would be located in Arlington, somewhere between Lake Street and Arlington Heights.

They are teaching in our public schools what the flag stands for and what the colors mean. The red says 'Be brave,' the blue says, 'Be true,' the white says, 'Be pure.' What better emblem could we have for good citizenship than this?

The flag pole is to run up on the front side of the building up above the roof. It is customary on most flag poles to have a gilded ball on the top of the pole, but I would not recommend that, as the town has gone no license, and we don't want any high balls on this particular pole. It might not be safe with so many self-confessed moderate drinkers as we have in town. In its place I would recommend an emblem of the

over

American eagle. It's a bird we all admire for its strength, wisdom and farsightedness, and it would be a warning to the office holders to keep an eagle eye out on town affairs. Washington's birthday we have just celebrated. The cherry tree still lives, but let us get together as good citizens and 'bury the hatchet,' and stand up for the old historic town.

Arlington is noted as the town Paul Revere rode through but didn't stop in, and there are lots of good people doing the same thing to-day.

Now we want to hold out inducements to these people to stop here and make their home among us and be proud of Arlington and on the nineteenth day of April let us unfurl 'Old Glory' to the breeze from off this building and celebrate Patriot's Day as man among men and not as peanut politicians."

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On motion of Edward H. H. Bartlett :

Voted:—That the board of Selectmen be empowered to instruct the janitor to have the flag displayed from the Town Hall building from the hour of eight A. M. until the hour of five P. M. on every day when the various Town Offices are open for business, and on all National and State holidays. On all Election Days the flag shall be raised at the opening of the polls and be displayed until the hour of closing.

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On Patriots' Day, April 19, the flag was raised for the first time.

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One of the two contests was over the appropriation of \$100 to provide a flag and staff for the Town Hall. The amount asked was granted though the finance committee had reported unfavorably.—*Boston Herald*.

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The flag from the staff on Town Hall, procured through the energy of Mr. Edward H. H. Bartlett, will be flown each day during office hours of its several town departments, besides on regular holidays.—*Arlington Advocate*.













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